25X1A

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO. --

COUNTRY	USSR	DATE OF INFORMATION	1952
SUBJECT	Economic - Agriculture, crops, livestock, animal products		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	DATE DIST.	6 Mar 1953
WHERE PUBLISHED	Tbilisi, Georgian SSR	NO. OF PAGES	7
DATE PUBLISHED	16 - 17 Sep 1952		
LANGUAGE	Russian	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Zarya Vostoka.

REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS REVIEW OF GEORGIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

The report on 15 September 1952 by A. I. Mgeladze, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Georgia, to the 15th Congress of the KP(b) of Georgia contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

Grain Crops

The USSR government has, as is known, adopted a decree concerning increased grain production in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Georgian SSR. By 1957, the republic must be fully self-sufficient in meeting its own grain requirements.

By 1957, the sown area devoted to grain crops in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic must be increased to 1,070,000 hectares as compared with 627,000 hectares in 1950; by 1957, the area sown to wheat must be 770,000 hectares as compared with 264,000 hectares in 1950, and the average wheat yield must reach 22-25 quintals per hectare.

In past years, the plans for increased grain yields have not been fulfilled. Failure to fulfill the plan for higher wheat yield is due to lack of appreciation for the value of agrotechnical measures by the Ministry of Agriculture Georgian SSR and party, Soviet, and local agricultural organs. For the last 3-4 years, sowing of winter wheat has not been carried out during the established periods of time. Crisscross sowing has been practiced on only negligibly small areas in kolkhozes. Not enough attention has been paid to proper plowing and care of summer fallow. The importance of mineral fertilizers in increasing yield is not appreciated in many areas of the republic.

The 1951 - 1952 plan for sowing new land to wheat was met 95.2 percent by kolkhozes of the republic, and 91.1 percent by those of Tbilisskaya Oblast. Especially lagging in this respect were the kolkhozes of Telavskiy, Goriyskiy, Gardabanskiy, and Marneul'skiy rayons.

25X1A

At this stage, the grain problem is the most important in republic agriculture. The Communist Party of Georgia must operate in such manner that by 1957 this problem has been completely solved, primarily through an increase in yield of all grain crops and especially through an increase in the yield of wheat.

Tea

The TsK KP(b) and the government of the USSR have assigned Georgia the task of making the USSR self-sufficient in meeting its tea requirements. Much work has been done to fulfill this assignment.

As of 1 July 1952, the area of tea plantations in Georgia comprised 56,841 hectares, distributed as follows: 47,875 hectares in kolkhozes and 8,966 hectares in sovkhozes.

In 1951, the state received 93,575 metric tons of graded green tea leaves; average yield per hectare was 2,322 kilograms.

In 1952, 101,400 metric tons of tea will be harvested and the yield per hectare will exceed 2,500 kilograms, despite the fact that climatic conditions caused the tea harvest to drag out. However, party organizations in Kutaisskaya Oblast, Abkhazskaya ASSR, and Adzharskaya ASSR will have to take all measures to assure fulfillment of the tea-leaf collection plan in these areas.

The yield of tea leaves cannot be considered satisfactory. Alongside leading rayons which obtain high yields, there are rayons which average only 1,000-1,700 kilograms of leaves per hectare; such rayons are Tskhaltubskiy, Tsulukidzevskiy, Abashskiy, Khobskiy, Tsalendzhikhskiy, Chkhorotskuskiy, Tskhakayevskiy, and others. During the next 2-3 years, yield must rise to an average of not less than 3,000-3,500 kilograms per hectare; the technology of processing tea leaves must also be improved decisively.

From 1949 to 1 July 1952, 14,401 hectares of new tea plantations were established in the republic, but in some plantations care of the young plants was unsatisfactory, drainage was inadequate, and weeds were not combated with the result that portions of some plantations in a number of areas failed to survive. The struggle against insect pests such as scale insects and tea moths is still ineffective in obtaining the desired results.

The plan for tea plantation development calls for an area of 80,000 hectares and a gross tea-leaf harvest of 211,000 metric tons by 1957; the gross harvest is to consist of 193,000 metric tons of graded tea leaves and 18,000 metric tons of coarse leaves for production of green brick tea.

Citrus

Georgia is the most ideally suited area in the USSR for growing lemons, oranges, and tangerines. The party and government surround the citrus industry of the republic with special solicitude.

The harsh winter of 1949 - 1950 caused great damage to citrus groves. Aid was immediately extended to the citrus industry. A decree of the USSR government envisaged restoration and new planting of 23,400 hectares of citrus plantations over a 5-year period, so as to extend the area occupied by citrus to 30,000 hectares by 1955.

From the fall of 1950 to 1 August 1952, 11,012 hectares of plantations were established, as compared with 7,700 per plan. During the fall of 1952, another 1,970 hectares will be added. By the end of 1952, citrus groves will occupy 19,582 hectares, distributed as follows: lemons 7,000 hectares; oranges 5,500 hectares; and tangerines 7,082 hectares.

In 1952, young citrus trees in nurseries numbered 7.5 million, as compared with 5.6 million per plan; 12 million plants were grafted; these will provide not less than 7 million standard young citrus trees in 1953.

Average yield remains low; in 1951, only 139 fruits were obtained on the average per tangerine tree. Principal reasons for low yield are inadequate measures against insect pests and diseases, violation of established rules for cultivating the groves, and insufficient application of organic and mineral fertilizers.

The republic must pledge to deliver to the state up to 300 million citrus fruits in 1952, 400 million in 1953, 500 million in 1954, 700 million (including 40 million lemons and 25 million oranges) in 1955, and not less than one billion (including 100 million lemons and 40 million oranges) in 1957.

Tobacco

In connection with expansion of the area sown to grain crops, that planted to tobacco has decreased by 5,000 hectares as compared with the 1949 area. At present, tobacco occupies 11,000 hectares.

In 1951, 12,077 metric tons of tobacco were delivered to the state as compared with 10,500 metric tons per plan. In 1951, yield was 10.97 quintals per hectare. The 1952 delivery plan will be exceeded both as to quantity and quality.

Serious infractions of agrotechniques are still being permitted; these result in reduced yields. In consequence of such infractions, 98 out of 318 tobacco-growing kolkhozes failed to fulfill the 1951 plan for delivery of tobacco to the state.

With stabilization of the area planted to tobacco at the 1951 level, namely 11,000 hectares, further yield increases per hectare are envisaged as follows: 15 quintals in 1953 and 15.5 quintals in 1954.

Viticulture

By decree of the USSR government, the area planted to vineyards is to reach 60,000 hectares in 1955, including 27,300 hectares in kolkhozes. Average grape yield is to reach 55 quintals per hectare in kolkhozes, 60 in sovkhozes. Deliveries to the state must reach 100,000 metric tons annually by 1955.

As of 1 August 1952, vineyards occupied 55,585 hectares in Georgia, distributed as follows: 23,699 hectares in kolkhozes, 2,464 hectares in sovkhozes, and 29,422 hectares in kolkhoz workers' personal holdings.

Grape yield has made little progress. Average yields in kolkhozes were 32.2 quintals per hectare in 1948, 31.3 quintals in 1951; corresponding yields in sovkhozes were 43.8 and 48.3 quintals. Reasons for low yields are infractions of agrotechnical rules, failure to apply fertilizers, poor cultivation of vineyards, failure to combat diseases, and an insufficient number of vines per hectare.

Pomiculture

Fruit orchards occupy 92,909 hectares in Georgia. Yield is very low. For example, while the plan called for a yield of 30-35 quintals per hectare in kolkhozes, actual average yields were as follows: 7 quintals in 1949, 19.9 quintals in 1950, and 9.2 quintals in 1951. Even kolkhozes of Goriyskiy Rayon, the principal fruit-growing rayon, obtained average yields of only 13.4 quintals per hectare in 1949 and 18.2 quintals in 1951. The reason for low yields is lack of orchard care: orchards are in run-down condition, are not irrigated at proper times, are not fertilized, and insects and diseases are not combated.

The area planted to fruit orchards in kolkhozes of the republic has been held at a level of 30,000 hectares. Limitations on planting new orchards, because of expansion of the area sown to grain crops, demand that local party, Soviet, and agricultural organs enforce better care of existing orchards and correct all the cited deficiencies, so that in the next 2-3 years the average yield rises to not less than 50 quintals per hectare.

Volatile Oil Crops

Volatile oil plantations of industrial importance in kolkhozes of the subtropical areas of the republic were initially established in 1932. At present, they occupy 1,355 hectares.

The geranium, basil, and rose provide oils necessary to the perfume industry. However, their importance to the national economy has not been sufficiently understood. Plans for planting, yield, and delivery to the state of geraniums have not been fulfilled. Growing of volatile oil crops must be increased, so that industry will be fully supplied with this valuable raw material.

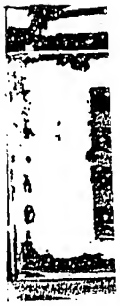
Tung, Eucalyptus, Bamboo, and Laurel

During the harsh winter of 1949 - 1950, the tung tree groves suffered considerable damage. It must be said that local party and Soviet organs of some areas take a disdainful attitude toward the growing of tung trees and care little about the small harvest of tung fruits.

Growing of eucalyptus is important in Georgia. The heavy frosts during the winter of 1949 - 1950 also damaged the eucalyptus groves severely. Kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and forestry managements made serious efforts to restore them in 1950 and 1951, but lack of care led to a low rate of survival. As of 1 June 1952, there were only about 15.6 million eucalyptus trees in Georgia. Plans for establishment of eucalyptus groves are not fulfilled year after year for lack of seed. Lack of seed menaces fulfillment of the task set by the USSR government, namely, to increase the number of eucalyptus trees to 100 million by the end of 1955, and it will be necessary to request the USSR government for an extension of time until the end of 1960.

In the Soviet Union, bamboo plantations of industrial importance are found only in Georgia. As of 1 July 1952, they occupied 2,798 hectares, of which 862 hectares were planted in 1952. During the period 1951 - 1955, 5,100 hectares of new bamboo plantations are to be established. Bamboo plantations in kolkhozes and sovkhozes are not being given the necessary care, so that many of them are in poor condition and some have died out.

The area planted to laurel is to reach 2,150 hectares by the end of 1955, according to a decision of the USSR government. To fulfill this task, it will be necessary to plant 100 hectares annually.



Potatoes and Vegetables

Despite an increase in the area planted to potatoes, the requirements of the republic are not being met because of low yield. Agrotechniques for potato growing are not being observed. In 1952, such main potato-growing rayons as Dmanisskiy, Tsalkskiy, Borzhomskiy, and Tetritskaroyskiy did not fulfill the planting plan.

Altogether unjustifiedly, questions relating to the development of vegetable growing have been given only second-rate attention in the republic. The hotbed and greenhouse industry has developed only very slightly. Production of potatoes and vegetables should be given serious attention, especially in suburban areas around Tbilisi and other industrial centers of the republic.

Sugar Beets

In recent years, sugar beet yield and delivery to the state have increased considerably. In 1951, 1,660,700 quintals or 70.9 percent more than planned were delivered to the state. Condition of the fields permits the forecast that the delivery plan will also be exceeded in 1952.

Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry is one of the most important branches of agriculture in Georgia. The 1951 livestock development plan was not fulfilled in the republic as a whole and by all categories of owners, except for an increase in number of hogs. The 1952 plan is likewise not being fulfilled.

Many kolkhozes did not carry out the necessary measures for raising and caring for young livestock. Instead of this difficult and troublesome work, they chose the easiest method of fulfilling the plan - purchase of livestock in excess of plan.

The average 1951 birth rate was only 60 calves, 76 lambs and kids, and 54 pigs per 100 adults.

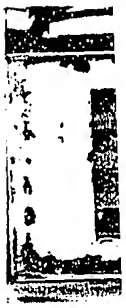
The milk and wool yield plans are not fulfilled year after year. In 1951, milk yield per foraging cow was 513 kilograms instead of 900 per plan and wool yield per sheep was 2.1 kilograms instead of 2.65 per plan.

The situation with regard to fodder procurement and meadow and pasture improvement is very poor. Serious shortcomings exist in regard to veterinary science. Construction of livestock shelters is lagging. It frequently occurs that livestock belonging to individual owners is mixed with the collectivized livestock and thus conditions are created for diversion of livestock and animal products.

Rayon party and Soviet organs concern themselves little with questions of improving livestock farm operation and selection and training of cadres for animal husbandry enterprises.

Sericulture

Three years ago, a 10-year sericulture development plan was decreed by the USSR government. According to this plan, Georgia must procure 40,000 quintals of cocoons in 1955 and 70,000 quintals in 1960. The 1952 cocoon procurement plan was not fulfilled.



Mechanization of Agricultural Operations

During the last 2 years, 26 new MTS and one MZhS (mechanized animal husbandry station) were organized in Georgia. There are now 95 MTS and three MZhS in the republic.

In 1951, the tractor park increased considerably; other new equipment included 218 combines and 1,265 tractor plows. In 1952, 180 combines have already been added. However, all this new equipment is being used without skill.

In 1951, percentage mechanization of various operations was as follows: plowing of all kinds, 68.9; sowing, 48.6; combine harvesting of spiked grain crops, 52.1; and cultivation of row crops, 10.4. In 1951, the average annual work performed per 15-horsepower tractor was only 322.2 hectares, short of even the very low plan figure of 329.4 hectares. Tractor work output must increase considerably.

Tea and citrus growing are the least mechanized branches of agriculture in the republic

Rural Electrification

As of 1 January 1952, the number of rural hydroelectric power stations had reached 226; these plants had a capacity of 25,500 kilowatts. Rural electrification in Georgia is lagging far behind kolkhoz needs.

During the last 3 years, instead of 121 stations with a capacity of 19,550 kilowatts, only 67 stations with a capacity of 10,023 kilowatts were put into operation. Instead of 505, only 325 kolkhozes were electrified.

Local Soviet and party organs do not appreciate the great importance of rural electrification for mechanization of labor-consuming processes in agriculture and do not get new rural and kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations into operation on time. For that reason, it is not surprising that the construction-plan for new stations is not fulfilled year after year.

Water Resources

The total irrigated area in the republic comprises 291,400 hectares. Of this number, 157,000 hectares are irrigated by engineer-built irrigation systems. During the postwar period, the Ministry of Water Resources Georgian SSR has built and reconstructed irrigation systems for 75,600 hectares and drainage systems for 7,800 hectares.

In Georgia, the greatest postwar water resource construction project is the Verkhne-Samgorskaya Irrigation System, which will irrigate 40,800 hectares in the Tbilisi vicinity. In 1951, construction work on the headwater installation of the Verkhne-Magistral'nyy Canal and on the Tbilisi Reservoir was completed. By 1 August 1952, the waters of the Iora River had filled the reservoir about one third.

In 1953, construction work on the Nizhne-Samgorskaya Irrigation System is to begin. It will irrigate 41,500 hectares of kolkhoz land in Sagaredzhoyskiy, Kachretskiy, and Signakhskiy rayons.

If all irrigation system work contemplated for completion by 1957 is actually completed, then the irrigated area will comprise more than 635,000 hectares.

Draining of the Kolkhidskaya Lowland, which has an area of 220,000 hectares and is the largest swampy area in Georgia, is to proceed at the rate of 12,000-15,000 hectares annually.

In 1951, the plan for capital water resource construction work was fulfilled 95 percent. Work towards fulfillment of the 1952 plan is lagging. The main reasons for failure to fulfill the plan are that the Ministry of Water Resources and its construction organizations fail to achieve full utilization of machines and truck transport and that oblast and rayon party organizations fail to take active measures to insure fulfillment of the plan. The importance of water resource development in the republic is due to the fact that no branch of agriculture in Georgia, including grain, tea, and citrus growing, can develop further without fulfillment of the planned irrigation and drainage programs.

- E N D -